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Letter dated 1 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to you in your capacity as President of the Security Council for the month of December 2009 and to transmit herewith the final report of the meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina held in Istanbul on 9 November 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Final report of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina

Istanbul, 9 November 2009

1. The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina met on 9 November 2009 at the ministerial level on the sidelines of the 25th meeting of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of OIC, held in Istanbul, Turkey.

2. The meeting was opened by His Excellency Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, OIC Secretary General, and was briefed by His Excellency Mr. Haris Slajdzic, member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Other members of the Contact Group also addressed the meeting, at which they reiterated their continued support for the people and the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3. The OIC Contact Group further reiterated the OIC support to preserve the unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty and international personality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within its internationally recognized borders, as a fully functional and self-sustainable State capable of carrying out its powers and fulfilling its international obligations without absolute blockade mechanisms, such as entity voting, as well as its multi-ethnic, multicultural and multireligious structure. The OIC Contact Group, in this respect, emphasized the importance of the decision-making powers of the Bosnia and Herzegovina legal structures for the proper functioning of the State and stresses the need to tackle any existing mechanisms that may hamper these powers, as part of the reform process.

4. The OIC Contact Group, as part of the international community, carefully monitoring the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and recalling the report of its previous meeting, which took place on 12 October 2009 in Ankara, reiterated its determination to contribute to the international efforts to ensure Bosnia and Herzegovina's advance towards integration with the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

5. The meeting observed that the lack of implementation of some key elements of the Dayton Peace Agreement have been found to obstruct the process of the reconstruction, democratization and reintegration of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting expressed its concern that these violations, particularly relating to the right of the refugees to return, have solidified blockades and prevented the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina from rebuilding a multicultural society. The meeting stressed the need for more efforts and work to implement these elements and to fully respect other key aspects of Dayton, particularly regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina's rights over State property that had been confirmed in Dayton and subsequent international agreements. The OIC Contact Group called on the international community to take these issues into serious consideration as part of the constitutional reform process.

6. Since the 5+2 objectives and conditions (State and defence property, rule of law, financial adequacy, status of Brcko, signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union (EU), decision by the Peace Implementation Council on stable political situation) identified by the Peace Implementation Council at its February 2008 meeting for the closure of the Office of the High Representative have not been fully implemented and the constitutional reform package by the international community has not been endorsed by the Bosnia and Herzegovina stakeholders, the OIC Contact Group underlined that any early step for the transition from the Office of the High Representative to the EU Special Representation should be carefully considered to allow for the satisfactory functioning of the Bosnia and Herzegovina central State.

7. The OIC Contact Group underlined the importance of the rule of law as part of any settlement impacting on the future of the country and invites all local and international actors to focus on the need to fully implement the existing legal obligations when presenting solutions for the future.

8. The meeting reaffirmed that the role of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in bringing justice to the region is of significant importance in preventing the recurrence of any tragic incidents in the future in this sensitive region.

9. The meeting called upon the OIC Secretary General to actively follow up on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting also called upon OIC member States and OIC financial institutions to contribute generously to the OIC Trust Fund for the Return of the Displaced Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina to enable the Fund to continue its reconstruction and development activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

10. The meeting expressed once again its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, for the active engagement of Turkey in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its active and vocal participation on behalf of the OIC Contact Group in the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board proceedings.

11. The meeting expressed its thanks and appreciation to the OIC Secretary General for having reactivated the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and called for the regular convening of the Contact Group to continue OIC support for the Bosnian people.

12. The meeting suggested that the next session of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina be convened at the ambassadorial level in Sarajevo.